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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,506	09/23/2003	Donald Stanford	87326.4000	2577

7590 11/23/2004

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EXAMINER
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ABRAMS, NEIL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,506

Applicant(s)

STANFORD, DONALD

Examiner

Neil Abrams

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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Title is unclear, -- electrical connection -- and -- coolant flow -- should be used.

Drawings objected to, in figs., 4, 5, the tubes 22 appear to be incorrectly located ; see fig. 1 with tube 22 entering fitting 12 from the large end 54. In fig. 1, numerals 54, 56, 28, 265 should be added, fig. 2, the O-ring 18 should be shown. Fig. 6, 12' 14' 16' should be added with material then provided in spec. These changes needed for clear disclosure.

In addition to Replacement Sheets containing the corrected drawing figure(s), applicant is required to submit a marked-up copy of each Replacement Sheet including annotations indicating the changes made to the previous version. The marked-up copy must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing and marked-up copy will result in the abandonment of the application.

Claims 11-13, 22 25 objected to; for claims 11-13, 22 dependencies appear incorrect, for claim 25 terms "and method" seem incorrect, claim 22 said O-ring" has no antecedent basis.

Claims 1, should the mating faces' be tied in with their current path function?

Claims 27 use of "O-ring to provide seal between the fitting halves" could be recited to more clearly define the invention.

Claims <sup>1, 4-21</sup> ~~1-21~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sargent alone or taken in view of Sterling.

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Sargent device includes fitting body c, sleeve, a and nut b, with electrical connector mating faces at d, e, the coupling forming a passage for fluid. Sargent adequate for claim 1, 4, 5, however, should issues arise, obvious to use the device for coolant fluid. For claims 6-13, obvious to use flats in view of Sterling at 40, 30 to enable easy turning of the nut. Other claims to materials etc relate to obvious variations producing no stated unexpected result.

Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hargroves in view of Wosik, Williamson and Sterling.

Hargroves discloses coupling fittings first and second halves at (2, 20) and 1 joined by helical threads at 3, 14 with electrical connection at joining of 3 and 1 and a gasket 18 urged against mating surface of part 13. While not discussed, obvious the gasket 18 would serve to seal the fluid passage.

Should the matter be at issue and for claim 27, also obvious to form Hargroves system with groove and gasket in view of Williamson at 24, 26 and Wosik at 52, 18 to better provide sealing.

For claim 26, obvious to use flats on the threaded parts in view of Stirling at 30, 40 to aid in turning the nut.

Claims 1, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hargreaves.

Hargreaves is discussed above. Also shown is a nut 3. Note mating faces at gaskets 18, 12 read as parts of their associated fitting body 20 and sleeve 1. The

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claims do not require these mating faces to be conductive. Terms "coolant fluid" defines no structure over reference.

Claims 2-19, 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hargreaves in view of Wosik, Williamson and Sterling.

For claims 2, 3 etc Hargreaves does not disclose a facial groove with a seal or for claim 6, 7, etc use of flats for application of torque.

It would have been obvious to include these features in view of secondary references applied as above. Other claims such as to manner of attachment of conduits to fittings or use of specific materials considered obvious variations.

While not required by claims, also obvious to omit 12, 18 and to provide mating electrical connection of parts 20, 14.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naito alone in view of Imai and Sterling.

Naito discloses fluid coupling fittings (Fig. 2) for connection to conduits with electrical connection at 4, 4 and a gasket at 8. Obvious to provide Naito with helical screw means to join 6 to 6 in view of Imai at 38, 31f, to provide a strong connection.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Naito alone or in view of Imai.

See above discussion. Parts 3, 3 are used to urge the coupling halves together.


Naito gasket 8 is read as an O-ring. Should the matter be at issue, also obvious to use added O-ring in groove in view of Imai at 39 for better sealing.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Neil Abrams at telephone number (571)272-2089.

Abrams/ds

11/16/04

  
NEIL ABRAMS  
EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 322